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ABSTRACT

This report provides early estimates of fall 1989 enrollment and academic year 1988-89 completions for all postsecondary institutions in the United States. The estimates are from the "Early Estimates" survey conducted as part of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. The survey, conducted by telephone, collected key enrollment and completions data from a nationwide sample of 1,098 postsecondary institutions representing the more than 11,500 such schools. Tables present data for: (1) enrollment in postsecondary institutions, by sex, attendance status, and attendance level of student, and by level and control of institution; (2) degrees and other formal awards conferred by postsecondary institutions, by control of institution, level of degree, and sex of recipient; (3) number of postsecondary institutions in the United States, by control and level of institution; and (4) population of selected age cohorts and high school graduates from 1970 to 1989. Findings from the data are discussed, and three figures graphically portray percentage distributions of selected data elements. (JDD)

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ED317122

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Survey Report

February 1990

Early Estimates

National Postsecondary Statistics, Collegiate and Noncollegiate: Fall 1989

Elaine Kroe
Postsecondary Education Statistics Division

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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February 1990

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Introduction

This report provides early estimates of fall 1989 enrollment and academic year 1988-89 completions for all postsecondary institutions in the United States, irrespective of their accreditation status. Postsecondary institutions have as their primary purpose the provision of postsecondary education and include: (1) higher education institutions accredited at the college level by an agency recognized by the Secretary of Education, and (2) other postsecondary institutions, collegiate and noncollegiate.[1]

These estimates are from the "Early Estimates" survey conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) as part of its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).[2] The survey, conducted by telephone, collected key enrollment and completions data from a nationwide sample of postsecondary institutions representing the more than 11,500 such schools in operation in 1988-89. Figure 3 and table 5 show the distribution of these postsecondary institutions by control and level.

Institutions of higher education composed about one-third of all postsecondary institutions in operation in 1989, but accounted for 93 percent of the total 1989 fall enrollment and conferred 62 percent of all postsecondary awards in 1988-89. A survey report providing early estimates of national higher education statistics was released by NCES in December 1989.

The enrollment and completions data in this report are not directly comparable. The enrollment data are for students enrolled as of the institution's official fall reporting date or October 15. The completions data are for students who received an award any time during the 12-month period of July 1 through June 30. The data and findings in this report are *early estimates* and subject to sampling errors. See the Survey Methodology for more information.

Findings

An estimated 14.5 million students were enrolled at postsecondary institutions in the United States in fall 1989, according to the "Early Estimates" survey conducted by NCES. Estimates from the survey indicate that:

- Fall 1989 enrollment at postsecondary institutions increased about 3 percent over fall 1988 enrollment. The growth in enrollment occurred despite the continuing decline of the U.S. population of 18- to 24-year-olds, who compose the largest group of postsecondary students.

- The number of degrees and other formal awards conferred by postsecondary institutions in 1988-89 showed no significant total change from the previous year. However, awards to men increased by 14 percent.

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[1]The definition of postsecondary education appears in the Glossary.

[2]The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) provides comprehensive and consistent data representing all postsecondary institutions in the United States. In past years, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) collected data on higher education institutions and postsecondary institutions offering vocational programs through separate surveys, and the data collected were not always comparable.

Enrollment

Total enrollment at postsecondary institutions in the United States was estimated at 14.5 million students in fall 1989--an increase of about 3 percent over fall 1988 (table 1).[3] The growth in enrollment from fall 1988 to fall 1989 was slightly higher for women than for men. Women outnumbered men at postsecondary institutions by more than 1.3 million students and comprised almost 55 percent of the total enrollment.

About 58 percent of postsecondary students enrolled in 4-year institutions, 38 percent in 2-year institutions, and 4 percent in less-than-2-year institutions (figure 1). By institutional control, 75 percent of postsecondary students were at public institutions, 20 percent at private nonprofit institutions, and 5 percent at private for-profit institutions. Table 3 provides trend data on postsecondary enrollment since the inception of the IPEDS "Fall Enrollment" survey in 1986.

Two-year institutions registered an overall enrollment increase of about 5 percent from fall 1988 to fall 1989, while 4-year institutions showed an increase of 2 percent. Full-time attendance was up significantly at 4-year and 2-year schools, but was especially notable at 2-year schools (7 percent). Part-time attendance was also up at 2-year institutions (3 percent) in fall 1989.

Total enrollment at less-than-2-year institutions was estimated at 635,000 students in the fall of 1989, showing no significant change from fall 1988. However, the instructional programs offered by these institutions are often of short duration and students may enroll in them at any point during the fall term. Consequently, fall enrollment over the entire fall term at less-than-2-year institutions may be higher than what is reported here as of a single date (the institution's official fall reporting date or October 15, 1989).

Enrollment at public institutions increased 4 percent over fall 1988 enrollment. In the private sector, total enrollment did not change significantly from the previous fall figures at either nonprofit or for-profit institutions. However, for-profit institutions showed a significant decline in male enrollment from fall 1988 to fall 1989.

The steady enrollment increases at postsecondary institutions in recent years (table 3) have occurred despite the steady decline since 1981 of the U.S. population of 18- to 24-year-olds.[4] The number of 18- to 24-year-olds has been declining because of the lower birth rates in the years following the large post-World War II baby boom (birth years 1947 through 1961). Table 6 provides trend data since 1970 on the number of persons in the U.S. population by selected age cohorts, and the number of high school graduates for each of those years.

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[3]The percentage changes in fall enrollment were derived by comparing the 1989 estimated data to data from the IPEDS "Fall Enrollment" survey of 1988. The "Fall Enrollment" survey is sent to the universe of 4-year, 2-year, and public less-than-2-year institutions, and to a sample of private less-than-2-year schools.

[4]U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, "School Enrollment--Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1986," Series P-20, No. 429, and "United States Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980-1988," Series P-25, No. 1045.

The growth in enrollment in all postsecondary institutions in recent years is probably due to the same factors that have driven enrollment increases at institutions of higher education--slightly higher participation rates of 18- to 24-year-olds in recent years, along with greater numbers of older students and women enrolling than in the past.[5]

Completions

An estimated 3 million degrees and other formal awards[6] were conferred by postsecondary institutions between July 1, 1988 and June 30, 1989, showing no significant increase nationally over 1987-88 (table 2). However, the number of awards earned by men was up 14 percent.[7] Total awards to women showed no significant change from the previous year. Figure 2 shows the distribution of degrees and other formal awards conferred by postsecondary institutions in 1988-89, by level of award. Table 4 provides trend data on postsecondary awards since the inception of the IPEDS "Completions" survey in 1986-87.

Undergraduate degrees and other formal awards

An estimated 2.6 million undergraduate degrees and other formal awards were conferred by postsecondary institutions between July 1, 1988 and June 30, 1989 (table 2). The number of associate degrees and other less-than-4-year awards[8] showed no significant overall change from the previous year. However, the number of other less-than-4-year awards earned by men increased 41 percent from 1987-88 to 1988-89, with all of the increase occurring at private institutions. The number of bachelor's degrees awarded in 1988-89 increased about 2 percent--the only undergraduate award category to show a significant change in total awards over 1987-88. The increase in bachelor's degrees was due to an increase in the number of these degrees earned by women (up 3 percent). The number of bachelor's degrees conferred by public institutions increased significantly (3 percent), while private institutions showed no significant change in the number of these degrees over 1987-88.

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[5]U.S. Department of Commerce, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 429. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Fall Enrollment" surveys, 1970 to 1988.

[6]NCES collects data on associate degrees, other less-than-4-year awards, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, doctor's degrees, and first-professional degrees through the "Early Estimates" survey. Data on these awards as well as postbaccalaureate certificates and post-master's certificates are collected as part of the IPEDS "Completions" survey.

[7]The percentage changes in degrees and other formal awards were derived by comparing the 1988-89 estimated data to data from the IPEDS "Completions" survey of 1987-88. The "Completions" survey is sent to the universe of 4-year, 2-year, and public less-than-2-year institutions, and to a sample of private less-than-2-year institutions.

[8]The category of other less-than-4-year awards includes postsecondary awards, certificates, or diplomas (other than associate degrees) that require completion of a program of less than 1 year, at least 1 but less than 2 years, or at least 2 but less than 4 years. A more complete definition of this award category appears in the Glossary.

Postbaccalaureate degrees

Master's degrees were the only postbaccalaureate award category to show a significant change in total degrees conferred between 1987-88 and 1988-89--increasing 3 percent, to an estimated total of 310,000 degrees (table 2). The number of master's degrees earned by women was up 4 percent and accounted for the increase in these degrees nationally. Conferrals of master's degrees by public institutions rose 4 percent, while private institutions showed no significant change in the total number of master's degrees over 1987-88. The total output of doctoral degrees was unchanged nationally from a year ago, although the number of these degrees was up significantly among women (4 percent), and at public institutions (almost 5 percent). First-professional degrees showed no significant change from the previous year in total degrees awarded. However, the number of first-professional degrees awarded to men dropped 3 percent, with a significant decline in these degrees to men at private institutions.

Table 1.--Enrollment in postsecondary institutions, by sex, attendance status, and attendance level of student, and by level and control of institution: Fall 1988 and 1989

(In thousands)

Level and control of institution	Total	Sex		Attendance status		Attendance level	
		Men	Women	Full-time	Part-time	Undergraduate	Postbaccalaureate
Total, 1989 (estimates)	14,507	6,598	7,909	8,560	5,947	12,735	1,771
Total, 1988	14,112	6,465	7,647	8,328	5,784	12,347	1,765
Percent change*	*2.8	*2.0	*3.4	*2.8	*2.8	*3.1	.4
Level							
4-year							
1989 (estimates)	8,415	4,004	4,412	5,852	2,563	6,644	1,771
1988	8,250	3,955	4,294	5,738	2,511	6,484	1,765
Percent change*	*2.0	*1.2	*2.7	*2.0	2.1	*2.5	.4
2-year							
1989 (estimates)	5,456	2,336	3,120	2,073	3,384	5,456	--
1988	5,210	2,231	2,979	1,937	3,273	5,210	--
Percent change*	*4.7	*4.7	*4.7	*7.0	*3.4	*4.7	--
Less-than-2-year							
1989 (estimates)	635	258	377	635	**	635	--
1988	653	279	373	653	**	653	--
Percent change*	-2.7	-7.7	1.1	-2.7	**	-2.7	--
Control							
Public							
1989 (estimates)	10,912	4,955	5,956	5,896	5,016	9,838	1,074
1988	10,483	4,766	5,716	5,633	4,850	9,424	1,058
Percent change*	*4.1	*4.0	*4.2	*4.7	*3.4	*4.4	1.4
Private nonprofit							
1989 (estimates)	2,862	1,357	1,505	2,000	862	2,175	687
1988	2,814	1,347	1,468	1,976	839	2,119	696
Percent change*	1.7	0.8	2.5	1.3	2.7	2.7	-1.2
Private for-profit							
1989 (estimates)	733	285	448	664	69	722	11
1988	815	352	463	720	95	804	11
Percent change*	-10.1	*-19.2	-3.2	-7.8	*-27.3	-10.2	-4.6

-- Not applicable.

*Only percent changes which are noted by an asterisk are statistically different from zero at the 5 percent level of significance. Caution should be exercised when collectively interpreting several percent changes noted by an asterisk. The overall significance level, i.e., the chance of finding at least one statistically significant difference when in fact there are no differences, will be greater than 5 percent. Percent changes were calculated on actual, not rounded, values. Percent changes in fall enrollment were derived by comparing the 1989 estimated data to data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) "Fall Enrollment" survey of 1988. The "Fall Enrollment" survey is sent to the universe of 4-year, 2-year, and public less-than-2-year institutions, and to a sample of private less-than-2-year institutions.

**All students at less-than-2-year institutions were categorized as full-time. Data on full- and part-time attendance status at less-than-2-year institutions will be collected in future survey years.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding. The coefficients of variation and 95 percent confidence intervals for selected data items are provided in the Survey Methodology. Postbaccalaureate includes graduate and first-professional.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment" survey, 1988, and "Early Estimates" survey, 1989.

Table 2.--Degrees and other formal awards conferred by postsecondary institutions, by control of institution, level of degree or award, and sex of recipient: July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1989

(In thousands)

Level of degree or award and sex of recipient	Total			Public			Private**		
	1987-88	1988-89 (estimates)	Percent change*	1987-88	1988-89 (estimates)	Percent change*	1987-88	1988-89 (estimates)	Percent change*
Total	2,801	2,989	6.7	1,473	1,483	0.7	1,328	1,507	13.4
Men	1,324	1,512	*14.2	696	694	-0.3	628	818	*30.3
Women	1,478	1,478	0.0	777	789	1.5	701	689	-1.7
Degrees									
Associate degrees									
Total	450	455	1.2	357	353	-1.1	93	102	9.8
Men	198	200	1.2	153	149	-2.5	45	51	13.6
Women	252	255	1.2	204	204	-0.1	49	52	6.4
Bachelor's degrees									
Total	997	1,021	*2.4	657	677	*3.0	339	344	1.4
Men	479	486	1.5	317	323	*2.0	162	163	.5
Women	517	534	*3.3	340	353	*3.8	177	181	2.2
Master's degrees									
Total	301	310	*3.0	173	180	*4.2	127	129	1.4
Men	146	149	1.9	79	82	*4.4	67	67	-1.1
Women	154	161	*4.1	94	98	*4.1	60	63	*4.2
First-professional degrees									
Total	71	69	-2.4	29	29	-1.0	42	41	-3.3
Men	46	44	*-3.2	18	18	-0.3	28	26	*-5.1
Women	25	25	-0.9	11	11	-2.1	14	14	0.0
Doctor's degrees									
Total	35	36	1.9	22	24	*4.8	13	12	-3.3
Men	23	23	.5	15	15	*3.2	8	8	-4.2
Women	12	13	*4.3	8	9	*7.7	4	4	-1.7
Other less-than-4-year awards***									
Total	948	1,099	15.9	234	221	-5.8	713	878	23.0
Men	432	609	*41.0	114	106	-7.3	317	503	*58.4
Women	516	489	-5.1	120	115	-4.4	396	375	-5.4

*Only percent changes which are noted by an asterisk are statistically different from zero at the 5 percent level of significance. Caution should be exercised when collectively interpreting several percent changes noted by an asterisk. The overall significance level, i.e., the chance of finding at least one statistically significant difference when in fact there are no differences, will be greater than 5 percent. Percent changes were calculated on actual, not rounded, values. Percent changes in degrees and other formal awards were derived by comparing the 1988-89 estimated data to data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) "Completions" survey of 1987-88. The "Completions" survey was sent to the universe of 4-year, 2-year, and public less-than-2-year institutions, and to a sample of private less-than-2-year institutions.

**Includes nonprofit and for-profit institutions.

***Includes postsecondary awards, certificates, or diplomas (other than associate degrees) that require completion of a program of less than 1 year, at least 1 but less than 2 years, or at least 2 but less than 4 years. See the Glossary for a more complete definition.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. The coefficients of variation and 95 percent confidence intervals for selected data items are provided in the Survey Methodology.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Completions" survey, 1987-88, and "Early Estimates" survey, 1989.

Table 3.--Enrollment in postsecondary institutions, by sex and attendance status of student, and by control and level of institution: Fall 1986 to fall 1989

Sex and attendance status of student and control and level of institution	1986*	1987	1988	1989**
Total	13,910,859	13,964,079	14,112,391	14,506,950
Men	6,511,284	6,477,460	6,465,391	6,597,611
Women	7,399,575	7,486,619	7,647,000	7,909,339
Attendance status				
Full-time	8,347,349	8,270,104	8,328,282	8,560,040
Part-time	5,563,510	5,693,975	5,784,109	5,946,910
Control				
Public	10,059,446	10,331,628	10,482,675	10,911,744
Private nonprofit	2,791,161	2,772,344	2,814,446	2,862,307
Private for-profit	1,060,252	860,107	815,270	732,899
Level				
4-year	7,913,393	8,121,877	8,249,577	8,415,318
2-year	5,003,163	5,038,049	5,209,963	5,456,442
Less-than-2-year	994,303	804,153	652,851	635,190

*Data have been revised from previously published numbers.
**Estimated.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment" surveys, 1986 to 1988, and "Early Estimates" survey, 1989.

Table 4.--Degrees and other formal awards conferred by postsecondary institutions, by level of award and sex of recipient: July 1 to June 30 of 1986-87 to 1988-89

Level of degree or award and sex of recipient	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89*
Total	2,756,201	2,801,178	2,989,358
Men	1,294,614	1,323,526	1,511,580
Women	1,461,587	1,477,653	1,477,778
Degrees			
Associate degrees			
Total	443,533	450,050	455,366
Men	194,013	197,694	200,012
Women	249,520	252,356	255,354
Bachelor's degrees			
Total	992,479	996,548	1,020,671
Men	481,531	479,184	486,357
Women	510,948	517,364	534,314
Master's degrees			
Total	290,047	300,572	309,647
Men	141,740	146,215	148,939
Women	148,307	154,357	160,708
First-professional degrees			
Total	71,861	70,817	69,137
Men	46,729	45,604	44,140
Women	25,132	25,213	24,997
Doctor's degrees			
Total	34,384	35,290	35,945
Men	22,274	22,884	23,007
Women	12,110	12,406	12,938
Other less-than-4-year awards**			
Total	923,897	947,901	1,098,592
Men	408,327	431,945	609,125
Women	515,570	515,957	489,467

*Estimated.
**Includes postsecondary awards, certificates, or diplomas (other than associate degrees) that require completion of a program of less than 1 year, at least 1 but less than 2 years, or at least 2 but less than 4 years. A more complete definition appears in the Glossary.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Completions" surveys, 1986-87 and 1987-88, and "Early Estimates" survey, 1989.

Table 5.--Number of postsecondary institutions in the United States, by control and level of institution: 1988-89

Level of institution	Total	Public	Private		
			Total	Nonprofit	For-profit
All postsecondary	11,389*	2,169	9,220	3,092	6,128
4-year	2,599	620	1,979	1,870	109
2-year	2,856	1,229	1,627	766	861
Less-than-2-year	5,934	320	5,614	456	5,158
Higher education	3,565	1,582	1,983	1,658	325
4-year	2,129	598	1,531	1,478	53
2-year	1,409	982	427	177	250
Less-than-2-year	27	2	25	3	22
Other postsecondary	7,824	587	7,237	1,434	5,803
4-year	470	22	448	392	56
2-year	1,447	247	1,200	589	611
Less-than-2-year	5,907	318	5,589	453	5,136

*The universe of postsecondary institutions in operation in 1988-89 was 11,527. This table excludes 138 institutions which are systems offices not offering instructional programs.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Institutional Characteristics" survey, 1988-89.

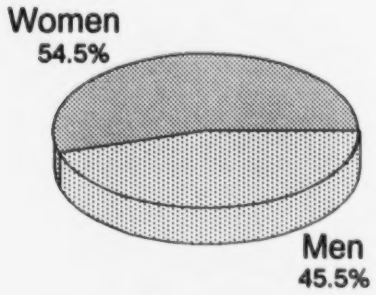
Table 6.--Population of selected age cohorts and high school graduates: 50 States and DC, 1970 to 1989

(In thousands)

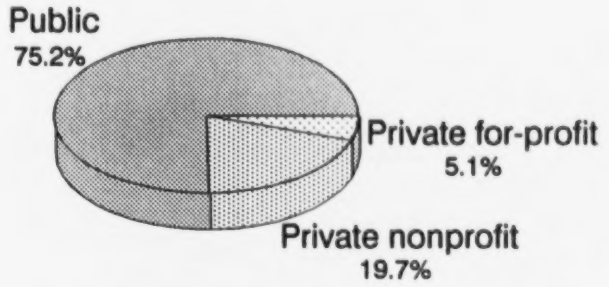
Year*	Population of selected age cohorts					Number of high school graduates**
	18 years old	18-24 years old	25-29 years old	30-34 years old	35-44 years old	
1970	3,781	24,712	13,736	11,587	23,150	2,889
1971	3,878	25,874	14,041	11,917	22,978	2,937
1972	3,976	26,076	15,240	12,383	22,859	3,001
1973	4,053	26,635	15,786	13,153	22,810	3,036
1974	4,103	27,233	16,521	13,704	22,826	3,073
1975	4,256	28,005	17,280	14,191	22,831	3,133
1976	4,266	28,645	18,274	14,485	23,093	3,148
1977	4,257	29,174	18,277	15,721	23,563	3,155
1978	4,247	29,622	18,683	16,280	24,437	3,127
1979	4,316	30,048	19,178	17,025	25,176	3,117
1980	4,243	30,350	19,804	17,822	25,868	3,043
1981	4,175	30,428	20,306	18,853	26,460	3,020
1982	4,115	30,283	20,865	18,876	28,115	2,995
1983	3,946	29,942	21,321	19,281	29,368	2,888
1984	3,734	29,391	21,660	19,769	30,619	2,767
1985	3,634	28,749	21,891	20,346	31,839	2,677
1986	3,362	27,967	22,132	20,848	33,144	2,642
1987	3,632	27,336	22,107	21,410	34,380	2,698
1988***	3,717	26,907	22,000	21,860	35,321	2,793
1989***	3,791	26,591	21,830	22,194	36,548	2,781

*Population data are as of July 1. Data on the number of high school graduates are for the school year; for example, 1970 is school year 1969-70.
**Includes graduates of public and private schools.
***Population data for 1988 and 1989 are projected. The numbers of high school graduates in 1988 and 1989 are estimated.
SOURCE: Population data are from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, "Population Estimates and Projections," Series P-25, (Middle Series), and unpublished projections. Data on high school graduates are from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Statistics of State School Systems, various years; Statistics of Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools, various years; and Common Core of Data surveys, various years.

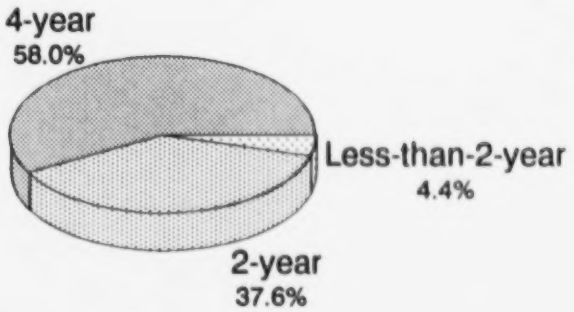
Figure 1.--Percentage distribution of students enrolled in postsecondary institutions, by selected student and institutional characteristics: Fall 1989



Sex of student



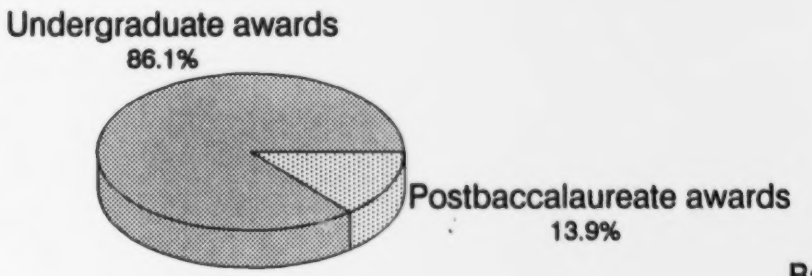
Control of institution



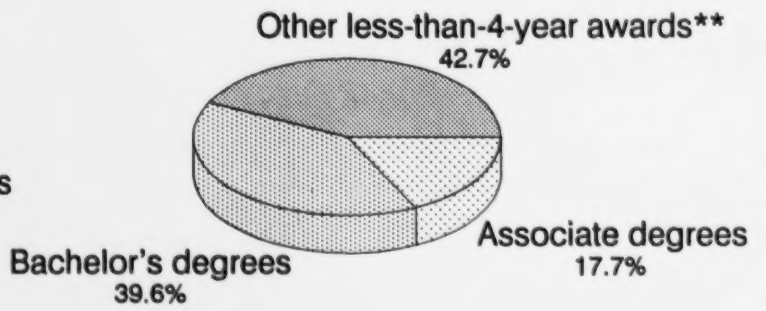
Level of institution

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Early Estimates" survey, 1989.

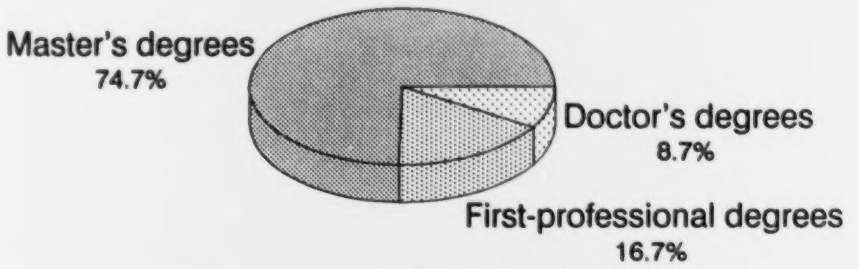
Figure 2.--Percentage distribution of degrees and other formal awards conferred by postsecondary institutions, by level of award: July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1989



All awards*



Undergraduate awards



Postbaccalaureate awards

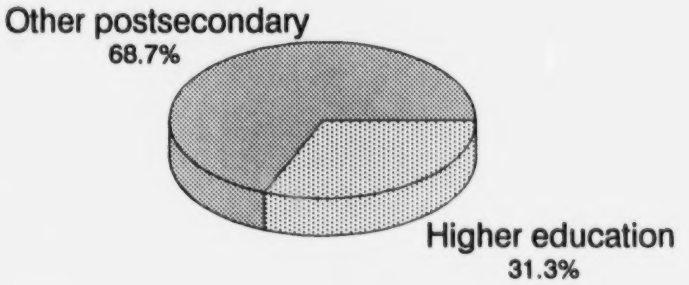
*Excludes postbaccalaureate certificates and post-master's certificates, as data for these award levels are not requested in the "Early Estimates" survey.

**Includes postsecondary awards, certificates or diplomas (other than associate degrees) that require completion of a program of less than 1 year, at least 1 but less than 2 years, or at least 2 but less than 4 years.

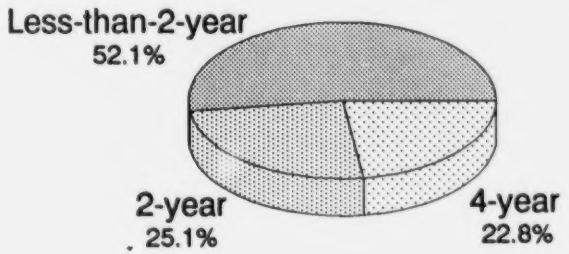
NOTE: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Early Estimates" survey, 1989.

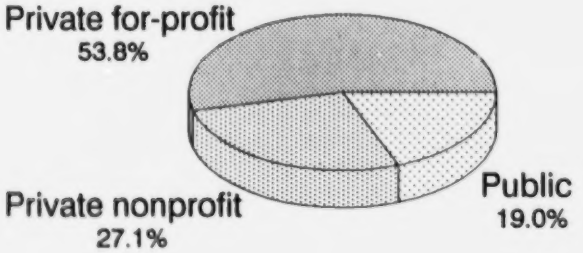
Figure 3.--Percentage distribution of postsecondary institutions, by selected institutional characteristics: 1988-89



Type of institution



Level of institution



Control of institution

NOTE: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Institutional Characteristics" survey, 1988-89.

Acknowledgments

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Survey Methodology

The 1989 data are based on responses from the 1,098 postsecondary institutions on the Early Estimates Panel, a stratified random sample representative of the universe of 11,527 postsecondary institutions in the United States in 1988-89.[9] Data for selected data items from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) "Fall Enrollment," "Completions," and "Finance" survey forms were requested by telephone from the Early Estimates Representative of each institution in the sample between mid-October and mid-November 1989. The data were edited in light of previous years' survey responses, where available. The largest discrepancies were resolved with reporting institutions. The lack of consistency in the finance data from year to year precluded their publication in this report.

The overall response rate for the 1989 "Early Estimates" survey of postsecondary institutions was 92 percent. Weighted response rates for the three survey components were: 1) Fall enrollment, 92 percent; 2) Completions, 87 percent; and 3) Finance, 80 percent. The sample weights were adjusted to account for institutional nonresponse.

[9]The universe consists of 3,662 institutions of higher education and 7,865 other postsecondary institutions.

These early estimates are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. While nonsampling error is difficult to measure, the magnitude of sampling error can be estimated, and may be indicated by constructing a confidence interval for an estimate. A 95 percent confidence interval indicates that if all possible samples were surveyed under similar conditions, and if a 95 percent confidence interval were constructed for each sample, then about 95 percent of these intervals would include the true population parameter being estimated.

Estimates of the sampling errors of selected data from the 1989 "Early Estimates" survey are provided in the following table. The sampling error estimates are expressed as a percent of the estimate (the coefficient of variation or CV). For each 1989 estimate in the report, a 95 percent confidence interval may be constructed by multiplying the CV of the estimate by 1.96, multiplying the resulting number by the estimate, and adding and subtracting this final number to the estimate. For example, the 95 percent confidence interval for total awards may be calculated as follows: .0292 X 1.96 = .0572; .0572 X 2,989,358 = 170,991. When 170,991 is added to and subtracted from the estimated 2,989,358 total awards, the resulting confidence interval is 2,818,367 to 3,160,349 total awards.

For more information on the sample selection, data collection, and estimation methodologies, or for individual standard errors for the sample estimates in this report, please contact the author at (202) 357-6361.

Coefficients of variation for selected data items in the 1989 "Early Estimates" survey

(In thousands)

Data item	Estimate	Coefficient of variation (Percent)	95% confidence interval	
			Lower	Upper
Fall enrollment				
Total	14,507	0.53	14,356	14,658
4-year	8,415	0.59	8,318	8,513
2-year	5,456	0.79	5,372	5,541
Less-than-2-year	635	5.67	565	706
Public	10,912	0.38	10,831	10,992
Private nonprofit	2,862	1.94	2,754	2,971
Private for-profit	733	4.28	671	794
Completions				
Total	2,989	2.92	2,818	3,160
Associate degrees	455	2.67	432	479
Bachelor's degrees	1,021	0.59	1,009	1,033
Master's degrees	310	0.71	305	314
First-professional degrees	69	1.34	67	71
Doctor's degrees	36	1.09	35	37
Other less-than-4-year awards*	1,099	7.13	945	1,252

*Includes postsecondary awards, certificates, or diplomas (other than associate degrees) that require completion of a program of less than 1 year, at least 1 but less than 2 years, or at least 2 but less than 4 years. See the Glossary for a more complete definition.

NOTE: The upper and lower confidence intervals were calculated on actual, not rounded, values.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Early Estimates" survey, 1989.

Glossary

Full-time student.

Undergraduate: A student enrolled for 12 or more semester credits, or 12 or more quarter credits, or 24 contact hours a week each term.

Graduate: A student enrolled for 9 or more semester credits, or 9 or more quarter credits.

First-professional: As defined by the institution.

Other less-than-4-year awards. Postsecondary awards, certificates, or diplomas (other than associate degrees) that require completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary level:

(1) in less than 1 academic year (2 semesters or 3 quarters) or in less than 900 contact hours by a student enrolled full-time; or

(2) in at least 1 but less than 2 full-time equivalent academic years, or designed for completion in at least 30 but less than 60 credit hours, or in at least 900 but less than 1,800 contact hours; or

(3) in at least 2 but less than 4 full-time-equivalent academic years; or designed for completion in at least 60 but less than 120 credit hours, or in at least 1,800 but less than 3,600 contact hours.

Part-time student.

Undergraduate: A student enrolled for either 11 semester credits or less, or 11 quarter credits or less, or less than 24 contact hours per week.

Graduate: A student enrolled for either 8 semester credits or less, or 8 quarter credits or less.

Postsecondary education. The provision of a formal instructional program whose curriculum is designed primarily for students who have completed the requirements for a high school diploma or its equivalent. This includes programs whose purpose is academic, vocational, and continuing professional education, and excludes avocational and adult basic education programs.

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